

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06878 011013Z

12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 USIE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-10 SCCT-01

OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 SY-05 SCS-03 EB-07 COME-00 SCA-01

AID-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 ISO-00 /102 W

----- 007692

O R 010856Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4582

DIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6878

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06878 011013Z

STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON SITUATION REPORT AS OF NOON, JUNE 1

REF: BEIRUT 6873

1. SECURITY SITUATION HAS BEEN RELATIVELY QUIET FOR LAST 24 HOURS, ASIDE FROM BOMBING AFTERNOON MAY 31 OF LOCAL ITT OFFICE (BEIRUT 6877) AND EXCHANGES OF FIRE THIS MORNING IN VICINITY DAMOUR (15 MILES SOUTH OF BEIRUT ON COAST ROAD). A FEW ADDITIONAL KIDNAPPINGS WERE REPORTED YESTERDAY AFTERNOON AND OVERNIGHT, BUT FREQUENCY OF SUCH INCIDENTS APPEARS TO BE TAILING OFF. ARAB COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION(ACO) HAS CLAIMED CREDIT FOR ITT BOMBING IN STATEMENT (FULL TEXT OF

WHICH WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN) WHICH ALLEGES ITT IS OWNED BY CIA AND WHICH ATTEMPTS DRAW PARALLELS BETWEEN ALLEGED ITT ACTIVITIES AGAINST ALLENDE IN CHILE AND COMPANY'S "SUBVERSIVE" ROLE IN FOMENTING LEBANESE STRIFE. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, ACO COMMUNIQUE ALSO INVEIGHS AGAINST PRESIDENTS SADAT AND ASSAD, BUT NO PARTICULARS ARE AVAILABLE TO US.

2. BEIRUT PRESS THIS MORNING CARRIES EMBASSY'S DENIAL OF ACCUSATIONS OF USG INVOLVEMENT IN CURRENT CRISIS MADE BY LEFTIST SPOKESMAN KAMAL JUMBLATT (FEFTEL). JUMBLATT REPORTEDLY RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO PROTEST

ACCUSATION THAT "FRENCH MERCENARIES" ARE AIDING PHALANGE. JUMBLATT SUBSEQUENTLY BACKED DOWN ON THIS POINT, CLAIMING HE HAD BEEN MISQUOTED AND HAD REALLY SAID "EUROPEANS AND OTHERS" WERE FIGHTING WITH PHALANGE.

3. CONSENSUS AMONG KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS IS THAT PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME WILL NEED AT LEAST SEVERAL MORE DAYS IN

ORDER FORM CABINET. KARAME HIMSELF, IN MAY 31 STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN, ANNOUNCED HE IS TAKING HIS TIME RE FORMATION OF NEW GOVT IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY "MISTAKE" THAT MIGHT LEAD TO "SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS". CALLING FOR PUBLIC CONFIDENCE
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PAGE 03 BEIRUT 06878 011013Z

AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING, HE SAID HIS MAIN PREOCCUPATION AT THIS JUNCTURE IS TO RESTORE INTERNAL STABILITY TO POINT WHERE " APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS" WOULD EXIST FOR FORMATION OF CABINET ACCEPTABLE TO ALL LEBANESE. WE UNDERSTAND KARAME IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH CARETAKER MINISTERS OF OUTGOING MILITARY GOVT TO IMPROVE SECURITY SITUATION TO THIS END. ONE ASPECT OF THEIR EFFORTS WOULD APPEAR TO BE AN ARRANGEMENT,

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PORTEDLY WORKED OUT BY GOL SECURITY OFFICIALS AND PLO LEADERS
MAY 31, FOR JOINT POLICE-PLO PATROLS TO SET UP BUFFER-ZONER
BETWEEN PHALANGIST AND FEDAYEEN ELEMENTS IN DEKWANEH-TEL
ZAATAR AREA AND PERHAPS OTHER HOTSPOTS ARTUND TOWN. THIS
ARRANGEMENT, IF IT CAN BE
IMPLEMENTED, MIGHT HELP REDUCE
POSSIBILITY OF FURTHER OUTBREAKS OF FIGHTING SUCH AS HAVE
OCCURRED HERE REPEATEDLY OVER PAST 12 DAYS.

4. WE

HOPE THIS WILL BE OUR FINAL REGULARLY-SCHEDULED SITREP.
ALL AMCITS REMAIN SAFE TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE (THERE WERE
NO RPT NO CASUALTIES IN ITT BOMBING). EMBASSY PLANS
NORMAL OPERATIONS BEGINNING MONDAY, JUNE 2, AND WE ARE
REQUESTING THAT MINIMIZE BE LIFTED (SEPTTEL). LOCAL
AMERICAN COMMUNITY, HOWEVER, IS STILL BEING CAUTIONED TO
LIMIT MOVEMENTS TO "SAFE" PARTS OF TOWN AND OBSERVE PRUDENT
PRECAUTIONS PREVIOUSLY DESCRIBED.
GODLEY

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